

Appl. No. 11/811,527
Docket No. 8768MD2
Amdt. dated January 8, 2010
Reply to Office Action mailed on October 19, 2009
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-36 (canceled)

37. (Currently amended) An absorbent article, the absorbent article comprising an elastic component the elastic component comprising a first substrate having an elastomeric composition applied either directly or indirectly via a printing method in a predetermined geometric pattern, selected from the group consisting of rectilinear stripes, curvilinear stripes, triangles, trapezoids, squares, parallelograms, polygons, ellipses, circles and combinations thereof, said pattern comprising at least two individual elastomeric members differing in a property selected from the group consisting of differing width dimensions between the elastomeric members, differing thickness dimensions between the elastomeric members, differing mechanical properties between the elastomeric members, and differing visual appearance between the elastomeric members and such that the elastomeric composition partially penetrates the first substrate, wherein the elastomeric composition comprises a phase change solvent having the general formula:

- (I) $R' - L_y - (Q - L_x)_{n-1} - Q - L_y - R$;
- (II) $R' - L_y - (Q - L_x)_n - R$;
- (III) $R' - (Q - L_x)_n - R$;
- (IV) $R' - (Q - L_x)_{n-1} - Q - L_y - R$;
- (V) $R' - (Q - L_x)_{n-1} - Q - R$; or

a mixture thereof;

wherein Q ~~may be is a para-ring~~ a substituted or unsubstituted difunctional aromatic moiety, ~~and wherein the substitutions are in the 1,4 positions~~; L is CH₂; R and R' are the same or different and are independently selected from H, CH₃, COOH, CONHR₁, CONR₁R₂, NHR₃, NR₃R₄, hydroxy, or C1-C30 alkoxy; wherein R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ are the

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same or different and are independently selected from H or linear or branched alkyl from C1-C30; x is an integer from 1 to 30; y is an integer from 1 to 30; and n is an integer from 1 to 3 to 7; wherein the phase change solvent has a phase change in a temperature range from 40 °C to about 250 °C.

38. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 37 wherein the elastic component has a percent set less than about 20%.

39. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 37, wherein the elastic component is selected from the group consisting of a topsheet, a backsheet, an outer cover, an ear, a side panel, a waist member, a leg elastomeric member, a chassis member, a fastener, a fastener with slot and tab and combinations thereof.

40. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 37 wherein the predetermined geometric pattern is selected from the group consisting of continuous patterns and intermittent patterns.

41. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 37 wherein the elastomeric members have a width dimension of at least about 2.0 mm.

42. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 37 wherein the elastomeric members have a thickness dimension of at least about 0.1 mm.

43. (Currently amended) An absorbent article according to claim 37 wherein the elastomeric members are spaced apart, adjacent to or at least partially overlap each other.

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44. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 37 wherein the elastic component comprises at least one additional elastomeric composition disposed on the substrate.

45. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 44 wherein the elastic component comprises first and second elastomeric compositions and the second composition is disposed on the substrate in a pattern different than the first composition.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 37 wherein the substrate is selected from the group consisting of nonwoven fibrous webs and woven fibrous webs.

48. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 47 wherein the fibers comprise a polyolefin material.

49. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 37 wherein the elastic component has been incrementally stretched.

50. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 37 wherein the elastic component further comprises a second substrate joined to the first substrate to form a laminate, wherein the elastomeric composition is disposed between the first and second substrates.

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51. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 50 wherein the second substrate comprises a film.

52. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 37 wherein the printing method is selected from the group consisting of gravure, offset gravure, intaglio, flexographic and ink jet.

53. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 37 wherein the elastomeric member has a melt viscosity of from about 1 to about 150 Pa·s, measured at 175 °C and 1 s⁻¹ and an elasticity of at least about 50 N/m.

54. (Canceled)